

spending on other, less important activities will have to be restrained. But unless we want to return to the days when Congress raided Social Security to pay for other programs, or to the days of big budget deficits, prioritizing spending is key. We have come too far to abandon the discipline that has finally restored some order to the budget process.

I will conclude by talking just briefly about one other aspect of this resolution. To ensure that we ultimately do what we say is intended here, the budget includes some important enforcement provisions. It would establish a 60-vote point order—that is, it would effectively require a supermajority vote to run an on-budget deficit and thus make it harder to raid Social Security in the future. It would similarly require a supermajority vote to declare spending as an emergency that is exempt from spending limits. It would establish a firewall to ensure that we abide by spending limits for defense and non-defense activities. And finally, it would make it much harder to shift appropriations into future years in order to avoid current-year spending limits.

I commend the Chairman and members of the Budget Committee for their work on this resolution, and particularly acknowledge the work of Senators GRAMM, NICKLES, GREGG, and GRAMS, who helped hold the line on spending and ensure that many of the budget gimmicks employed by Congress and the President in recent years were not employed again. As a result of their efforts, I think we have a much better budget.

I urge support for this spending plan.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Nebraska.

Mr. KERREY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to speak in morning business for up to 20 minutes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. KYL. Mr. President, might I ask what the subject matter is?

Mr. KERREY. Nuclear weapons, the Senator's favorite subject.

Mr. KYL. I have no objection.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection.

Mr. KYL. Mr. President, might I ask the indulgence of the Senator from Nebraska to read some brief remarks for the leader regarding the remainder of the day?

Mr. KERREY. I am pleased to yield the floor.

#### MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. KYL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that there be a period for the transaction of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### FAIRNESS IN ASBESTOS COMPENSATION ACT

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I have been asked whether I intend to call up for consideration on the Senate floor legislation that has been introduced in the Senate with respect to asbestos. After conferring with the chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee, and the chairman of the subcommittee with jurisdiction of this issue, it is clear that a markup has not yet been scheduled, and that extensive work would be needed before the bill is ready for Senate floor action. I have also conferred with the sponsor of the bill who informs me that since the bill was introduced, the consensus regarding this legislation, S. 758, between industry, the plaintiffs, and other concerned parties, and among industry itself, appears to have deteriorated substantially. This bill is not ready for Senate floor action. The Senate will soon be occupied with budget, appropriations, tax and other legislation. For these reasons, and in all candor, the necessary floor time will not be available to act on the Senate asbestos bill this year.

Mr. ASHCROFT. Mr. President, I appreciate the majority leader's comments and candor on this issue.

Last year I introduced S. 758, the Fairness in Asbestos Compensation Act in response to two Supreme Court rulings urging Congress to act on national legislation that would fairly and efficiently compensate victims of asbestos. As U.S. Supreme Court Justice David Souter wrote for the court in *Ortiz versus Fibreboard*: "The elephantine mass of asbestos cases . . . defies customary judicial administration and calls for national legislation . . . to date Congress has not responded."

It was my hope that this bill could serve to bring all parties together to solve this issue. It is now clear, however, that this bill will not move in its current form. As I mentioned to the majority leader, the consensus regarding S. 758 between industry, the plaintiffs, and other concerned parties, and among industry itself, appears to have deteriorated substantially since S. 758 was introduced.

It is also clear that there is virtually no time in the Senate to consider this bill this year. The Senate has a target adjournment date of October 6 this year. Before adjourning, the Senate will work to repeal the Social Security earnings limit, repeal the marriage tax penalty, pass agriculture sanctions reform to open markets for American farmers and ranchers, timely pass the budget and 13 separate appropriations bills, reauthorize the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, give final approval to legislation to combat the methamphetamine crisis, and adopt legislation to protect Social Security. These issues will take up my time this year. And these issues are just a par-

tial list of the ambitious agenda for the year.

In light of this situation, and the fact that the House appears to be taking a different approach entirely, I appreciate the majority leader's candid assessment of the legislative prospects for this bill. Because it serves no purpose to represent that S. 758 will pass or be acted upon this year or in the future, I appreciate the remarks of the majority leader.

#### TRIBUTE TO COLONEL TYLER H. FLETCHER

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, today I rise to pay tribute to an extraordinary citizen and public servant who has dedicated his life to the noble endeavor of law enforcement and the edification of those committed to this distinguished profession. Tyler H. Fletcher of Hattiesburg, Mississippi, exemplifies the qualities of honor, courage, dedication, and service that reflect the outstanding character of this former colonel in the United States Army Military Police. With the retirement of Colonel Fletcher on Friday, April 7, 2000, I express my highest gratitude to him for over 50 years of service and leadership to the United States of America.

As an officer in the United States Army Military Police, Colonel Fletcher was recognized with the Police Medal of Honor from the Republic of South Vietnam, three Legion of Merit awards, the Bronze Star, an Army Commendation, and four Meritorious Unit Citations. After retirement from the Military Police in 1971, Colonel Fletcher continued his exemplary service as associate professor and chairman of the department of criminal justice at the University of Southern Mississippi, garnering the distinction of Who's Who in American Law Enforcement in 1978 and the Excellence in Teaching Award in 1980.

Colonel Fletcher's extraordinary accomplishments in the professional arena are matched only by his dedication to the service of his fellow Americans. He has greatly contributed to the field of law enforcement by authoring numerous books and articles on the subjects of correctional administration, juvenile justice, and community policing. He is a pioneer in his research into areas of police education, crimes against the elderly, and victims of crime in Mississippi. He is a leader in his field as an active contributor to the National Society of Police and Criminal Psychology, the Mississippi Association of chiefs of Police, the International Association of Chiefs of Police, the National Council on Crime and Delinquency, the Disabled Americans Veterans, and the Mississippi Corrections Officers Association.

Mr. President, the distinguished career of Colonel Tyler H. Fletcher associates him with the best of the best in